

ing anxiously for it, but in all the inland localities the little *Zootoca vivipara* only occurs. The latter species, which Mr. Bell remarks extends "even into Scotland," is most abundant, and ranges far to the north. We have seen it on the southern confines of Sutherland and Ross-shire, and from thence to the English border; it is common on all the subalpine heaths reaching to a considerable elevation. It is also frequent on the sandy downs of the coast where heath and bent-grass abound, and where the true *L. agilis* might be expected. We would remark of Mr. Bell's figure or cut of this pretty reptile, that the common Scotch variety is more distinctly marked than that which he has exhibited, the interior of the lateral dark markings being bordered by a yellowish white line, clearly conspicuous even when the creature is running. In a specimen of what appears to be this reptile, taken on the coast, the scales containing the femoral pores are larger than what is stated. They appear as large as those represented in the cut at page 21, but are *round* and *oval*, not of the triangular form seen in fig. *a*. The animal, we think, agrees in other parts with the characters given of *Z. vivipara*, and in the proportion of the toes and toothless palate.

The subject of the next figure and description, *Anguis fragilis*, is also common in the south of Scotland. We have found it most commonly in dry, stony, subalpine situations, where it easily finds a retreat on the appearance of danger.

A beautifully cut figure of the common snake follows, but as the description is just commenced, we leave it till the publication of the next number.

*The Birds of Australia and the adjacent Islands.* By John Gould, F.L.S. Part II. Folio. London, 1838.

We formerly (in the Mag. of Zool. and Bot. vol. ii. p. 357.) noticed the first and commencing number of this work, produced in the same style of art, and on a similar scale, with Mr. Gould's other highly-finished illustrations. The second part is now before us, equal in every respect to its predecessor, and containing figures of the following species: but before making any remark upon them, we cannot avoid alluding to the expedition which our author has in contemplation to make to Australia. Such a journey will be of the highest interest to the traveller; and knowing Mr. Gould's activity in the field, and his qualifications for observation and recording what he does observe, we look forward to his return with an intense interest. Many species have now been forwarded to Europe from this most interesting country, a few of them from very inland districts;

but with the exception of the skin alone, and the description of the outward form of the bird, we have received almost no other information; in fact, we are more deficient in our knowledge of the œconomy of Australian species than of those of any other quarter of the world. This department should be Mr. Gould's great object: he should endeavour to collect everything, together with what he can himself observe, regarding the manners of those species which have given rise to so much speculation among our systematists, and to secure for after-dissection individuals of the various genera, which he well knows have long been desiderata to the comparative anatomist, *Apteryx*, *Menura*, *Alectura*, &c. We firmly trust that health and strength may be spared to him actively to go about his work, and safely to return again to his native country.

*Chatura macroptera*. Mr. Gould should endeavour to procure information regarding the manners of this bird, particularly its *scansorial* habits. Most of the *Hirundinidæ* make use of the tail as a support when resting, or when constructing their nests; but the authenticity of the fact of their climbing on the face of cliffs in search of food rests scarcely on complete evidence, and it will be a curious circumstance if confirmed, in the œconomy of birds possessing so great extent and power of wing.—*Dacelo cervina*, a beautiful species, and apparently very rare; Mr. Gould remarks that only two specimens are known in London. This is another genus of birds worthy of attention; a good account of their manners would be a valuable acquisition to our knowledge.—*Pachycephala pectoralis*, M. & F. The females of this genus have frequently been described under distinct names from the opposite sex.—*Amadina castanotis*, M. & F.—*Nestor hypopolius*.—*Platycercus hæmatogaster*, n. s.—*Myzomela nigra*, n. s., a curious species, the colours black and white, with nearly the same distribution as in *M. cardinalis*.—*Apteryx Australis*, an interesting figure of this very singular and still little-known bird. Mr. Gould mentions the existence of four specimens in the London collections, and from his examination of them has been led to conclude that it will range among the *Struthionidæ*, (where also Mr. Swainson places it in the tenuirostral type,) but that between the large members of this family and the *Apteryx* there may be supposed to exist several undiscovered intermediate links; indeed he mentions in the description, that at a meeting of the Zoological Society, a native of New Zealand, who was present, when shown the *Apteryx*, stated that he knew another kind, "with a shorter bill."—The last figure in the number is *Ægialitis* (*Charadrius*) *Monachus*, a chastely coloured species, and now not very uncommon in our collections.